What's New in Version 7

CEDS Version 7 includes updates to the CEDS standard and enhancements to the website, including two new Align reports, new fields in Align that support data governance, updates to the Align upload template, new fields in Connect meant to improve the outcome of Connections, and enhanced search capabilities for Connect.

In Version 7 there are 106 new data element definitions and 97 updated elements. In addition, more than 50 elements have been added to new contexts within the CEDS Domain Entity Schema (DES) to reflect additional uses.

Version 7 spans early learning through workforce, with significant improvements related to data vocabulary for:

- Credentials definition and assertions,
- Competency frameworks,
- K-12 special education data used locally for Individual Education Plans and compliance,
- IPEDS Postsecondary finance
- Reporting variables, and
- School Courses for the Exchange of Data (SCED) updates.

The latest release also includes various updates and clarifications in response to feedback from the CEDS community after the Version 6 release.

Website Enhancements

In response to user feedback, website enhancements focused on how CEDS is used to support data management activities.

Align

To enhance current functionality and make the alignment process easier and more effective, additional fields were added to the Alignment tool, new reports were created, updates to existing reports were made, and existing functionality was updated.

New Align Fields (Topic 1)

An *Element Reference* field has been added to allow the user to cite resources or other documentation to further define and explain the purpose behind an element's data collection. This information is available on reports.

Four new fields have been added for use by Map Administrators and Authorized Users.
Users can select from a set of radio buttons that identify the collection of an element as Required, Optional, Conditional or NA for "Not Applicable." The system defaults to NA.

Text fields have also been added for users to enter the name of the Data Steward and/or Internal Contact for an element. This is essential for data governance activities because these fields identify who is responsible for the element. A checkbox has been added to show whether a review of an alignment has been completed. When the checkbox is selected, a graphic will show up on the map's element list

page so Map Administrators and Authorized Users can determine the completeness of the alignment process. All of these fields are now available only when reports are accessed by Map Administrators and Authorized Users.

To improve ease of use, the *Add New Element* button has been added to the Modify Element for Map page. When the Add New Element button is clicked, the new element prepopulates with the System Name, Database Name, Table Name, Internal Contact and Data Steward based on information from the existing element, saving time and effort during the manual alignment process.

Option Set Alignment Responses (Topic 2)

Two option set alignment responses have been updated to better explain the alignment between a user's element and a CEDS element.

When aligning an element, users are asked to indicate the alignment between the CEDS element option set and the user's element option set. The language, "the same number of elements" was removed from the second response so that it now reads: "The same concepts, but would require transformation on value to align with the CEDS option set." Similarly, the sixth and final option was updated to include the CEDS element in the equation. The new language states: "No option set definition available in the stakeholder data dictionary and/or for the CEDS element."

Align Reports (Topic 3)

Changes were made to existing reports in Align to improve functionality and make the reports more efficient for users.

Updates to Existing Reports (Topic 3.1)

The following reports were updated to respond to stakeholder requests to make the reports more useful.

Data Dictionary Only Report and Data Dictionary + CEDS Info Report

Additional fields were added to the downloaded version of the Data Dictionary Only and Data Dictionary + CEDS Info reports. The fields include the CEDS global ID, the CEDS data model ID, and Comments. A date stamp has also been added to the online reports which shows the date the map was last updated.

Element-Based Report

Functionality was added to the Element Impact Analysis Report. It now displays specific information from the user's map, including the Element Name, System Name, Database Name and Table Name. The element name displays the element details from the user's map when selected.

New Report (Topic 3.2)

A new report called Map Data Formatted for Upload has been added to the suite of Align reports.

Map Data Formatted for Upload

The Map Data Formatted for Upload report contains all fields from the user's map and is only available as a download for Map Administrators and Authorized Users. All data that are required for uploading a

data dictionary to Align are included in this report and are formatted in such a way that the report can be edited and then uploaded again to modify the existing map.

Align and Connect Upload Templates (Topic 4)

The Align data dictionary upload template and the Connect upload template were both updated to accommodate new fields and features.

Align Data Dictionary Upload Template (Topic 4.1)

In addition to uploading alignment to CEDS, users can now upload an indicator for when an element could not be located in CEDS. This feature will eliminate the need for users to manually mark this for elements in a map. Also, users are no longer required to sign on to CEDS to access the data dictionary upload template. The template is now available under Resources, in Book I of the Mapping Toolkit, and from the Upload Data Dictionary page within an existing map.

Connect Upload Template (Topic 4.2)

As you will see in the next topic, a field for *Location* was added to Connections to let users select a specific State. Therefore, the Connect upload template was updated to incorporate this field so that the state can be included in the upload.

Connect (Topic 5)

New Fields (Topic 5.1)

Enhancements to Connect include a new field within Connections and new functionality.

A field for *Location* was added which requires users to select a State from the dropdown list. The *Location* field has also been added to the search criteria on the Find Existing Connections page, as well as the "Select Connections | See Elements" report. This will aid users in finding specific Connections. A date field was also added to the online version of the Connection that reflects the date the Connection was last updated.

A spellcheck feature was introduced so that users can review and update their Connections before sharing them with others.

Data Labels and Analysis Recommendations Order (Topic 5.2)

With Version 7, Connection Administrators and Authorized Users can easily change the order of the content within the Data Element and Analysis Recommendations sections as needed.

This completes "What's New in V7". For information on any of these new features or the other dynamic capabilities of the CEDS suite of tools, please view the other tutorials available on the CEDS website or contact us for a demonstration.